

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE AIR QUALITY IMPACTS OF THE USE OF ETHANOL IN CALIFORNIA REFORMULATED GASOLINE

The Air Resources Board (Board or ARB) will conduct a public meeting at the time and place noted below to consider the approval of a report on the air quality impacts of the use of ethanol as a substitute for MTBE in gasoline.

DATE: December 9, 1999

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: California Air Resources Board
Board Hearing Room, Lower Level
2020 "L" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

This item will be considered at a two-day meeting of the Board, which will commence at 9:00 a.m., December 9, 1999, and may continue at 8:30 a.m., December 10, 1999. This item may not be considered until December 10, 1999. Please consult the agenda for this meeting, which will be available at least ten days before December 9, 1999, to determine the day on which this item will be considered.

This facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If accommodation is needed, please contact the ARB's Clerk of the Board at (916) 322-5594, or (800) 700-8326 for TDD calls from outside the Sacramento area, by November 25, 1999.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST OF PROPOSED ACTION

Proposed Action: The ARB staff recommends that the Board approve the report for submittal to the Environmental Policy Council.

Background: Governor Gray Davis issued Executive Order D-5-99 on March 25, 1999 calling for the removal of methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) from gasoline at the earliest possible date, but not later than December 31, 2002. Task 10 of the Executive Order states "The California Air Resources Board and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) shall conduct an environmental fate and transport analysis of ethanol in air, surface water, and groundwater. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) shall prepare an analysis of the health risks of ethanol in gasoline, the products of incomplete combustion of ethanol in gasoline, and any resulting secondary

transformation products. These reports are to be peer reviewed and presented to the Environmental Policy Council by December 31, 1999, for its consideration.”

To assist OEHHA in its risk assessment, the ARB staff conducted an analysis to estimate the changes in ambient air concentrations of potentially detrimental contaminants of evaporative and exhaust components and subsequent reaction products that would result from substituting ethanol-blended gasoline for gasoline blended with MTBE. The analysis also included non-oxygenated gasoline to provide a basis of comparison for the ethanol-containing fuels.

The report to be presented to the Board on December 9 or December 10 has been prepared in response to the Executive Order D-5-99. It is limited to the air quality impacts of substituting ethanol for MTBE and does not present the health risk assessment or water quality impacts being investigated by OEHHA and SWRCB, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS AND CONTACT PERSON

The Board staff has prepared a Staff Report which includes a detailed discussion of the emissions and air quality impacts. The Staff Report is titled, “Air Quality Impacts of the Use of Ethanol in California Reformulated Gasoline.” Copies of the Staff Report may be obtained from the Board's Public Information Office, 2020 “L” Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 322-2990. The full document also is available for viewing on the ARB Web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cbg/regact/ethanol/ethfate.htm>.

To obtain this document in an alternative format, please contact the Air Resources Board ADA Coordinator at (916) 322-4505, TDD (916) 324-9531, or (800) 700-8326 for TDD calls from outside the Sacramento area.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Bart E. Croes, P.E., Chief, Air Quality Data Branch, Planning and Technical Support Division, Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, phone (916) 323-4887, or bcroes@arb.ca.gov.

SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS

The public may present comments relating to this matter orally or in writing. To be considered by the Board, written submissions must be addressed to and received by the Clerk of the Board, Air Resources Board, P.O. Box 2815, Sacramento, CA 95812, no later than 12:00 noon, December 8, 1999, or received by the Clerk of the Board at the meeting.

The Board requests, but does not require, that 20 copies of any written statement be submitted, and that all written statements be filed at least 10 days prior to the meeting so that the Board members and ARB staff have time to fully consider each comment. The Board encourages members of the public to bring any suggestions for modification of the proposed action to the attention of staff in advance of the meeting.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

Michael P. Kenny
Executive Officer

Date: November 23, 1999